work. There was no Superintendent for the last so many months and even now Government do not propose to appoint one. They are only going to have the staff of clerks and peons. There is absolutely no necessity to have a number of peons and clerks in the office. There is not much meaning in saying that they are investigating or unearthing the history of Travancore. That is something like duping. Therefore, I would strongly oppose this demand for the Archæological Department unless Government assure us that they are going to appoint a capable Superintendent to continue the work.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There is a good deal of work to be done by the present staff. They are completing the work which Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar was carrying on. The Government have no idea of abolishing the Superintendent's post. We are considering the question of appointing a qualified Superintendent for the place. Until we select the man, it is necessary to go on with the work of the department. It is not the intention of Government to keep the post vacant for ever. The Pandit Assistant is qualified to carry out the routine work of the department.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Do the Government believe that there is still a lot of work to be done by the department?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): By the department as a whole or by the present staff?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): By the department as a whole.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The department, as a whole, has a lot of work more to do.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it not mere speculation to say so?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not mere speculation. It was the opinion expressed by a large number of Members in this House.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil*): Is it the intention of Government to appoint a qualified Superintendent when one is available?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Shall I put the demand to the vote of the House?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I withdraw my opposition.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XX- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 11,910 under Demand XX. This comprises the following items:—

(*a*) Rs. 2,000 for improvements to the Vernacular High School buildings at Trivandrum.

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[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

In August 1925, at the instance of the Director of Public Instruction, an estimate for Rs. 3,015 for improvements to the Vernacular High School buildings, Trivandrum, was sent up to Government. The estimate provided for the following works:—

(1) Dismantling and raising the floor of the building.

(2) Raising the rear ground of the eastern and northern sheds and providing suitable drainage.

(3) Repairs to doors.

(4) Providing bamboo mat thatty ceiling.

The estimate was sanctioned, and the required funds ordered to be found from the 'Reserve' with the Chief Engineer in the P. W. D. Budget for 1101.

Again, on a further request from the Director of Public Instruction, another estimate for Rs. 3,380 for renewing the roof of the eastern building of the school was sent to the Government for sanction. The building is in an unstable condition, the ties of the collar roof being too far apart, the wall plates having become rotten with many joints and long rafters having no intermediate supports. This estimate has to be worked out more urgently than the one already sanctioned, and, along with it, the repairs to doors costing Rs. 675, which is item 3 of the sanctioned estimate referred to. The total amount, required for the works immediately to be taken up, would be Rs. 4,055, of which a sum of Rs. 2,000 ear-marked from the reserve towards the works already sanctioned is proposed to be utilised for the works now proposed and this motion is for a further grant of Rs. 2,000 which could not be found from the sanctioned budget allotment.

(*b*) Rs. 4,500 for repairing the damage caused to the roads in the Shencotta section by the rains of Karkatakam, 1099.

The 46th mile, portions of the 49th mile and the 58th mile of the Quilon—Shencotta road were damaged by the rains of Adi 1099, and an estimate for remetalling the portions was got ready; but, for want of funds, it was not sent up to the Government at that time. Only temporary repairs were done and the road was kept in order as far as possible. Towards the close of 1100 M. E., the Division Officer, Quilon, again applied to the Chief Engineer for funds, and on account of the urgency of the work, the Division Officer was permitted to start the work towards the close of 1100. The work was started and it has not been found possible to find more than Rs. 2,500 by diversion from the departmental grant. The estimate for the work amounts to Rs. 7,825 and this has been sanctioned for execution.

As funds to meet the balance amount could not be found by diversion from the budget of the department for 1101, this motion for a supplementary grant to the extent of Rs. 4,500 for the work is brought forward.

(*c*) Rs. 4,910 for the construction of an approach road from Karkad to the Main Cape road.

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The inhabitants of Karkad, one of the biggest Sambavar villages in the Agastisvaram taluk, have been for a long time petitioning the Government and reiterating the same prayer in various ways for the opening of a road from the Cape road to their village. They are being put to great difficulty and inconvenience for want of it.

Consequently, the Chief Engineer was asked to submit an estimate for the work, and an estimate for Rs. 4,910 has been received.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask the Chief Engineer whether the Government's attention was drawn to the necessity for this road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The people have for a long time been asking for that road.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is it not more than 40 years since the people began to pray for this road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not remember the exact number of years.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether this was not forseeen at the time when the budget was prepared?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): A lot of roads were foreseen but were omitted for want of sufficient funds.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What was the immediate necessity that persuaded the Government to take up this road now?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The Government thought that the road was an urgent necessity and so called for an estimate.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is he not aware of an endorsement that was given to the people that this road was not at all necessary in view of the fact that there was a branch road to Karkad at the 45th mile of the Cape Comorin road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Years ago, one Peishkar was of that opinion and that might have been endorsed by the Government then.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Member take it from me that it was only on 6th June 1923?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That was based on the Government order about the road in force at that time. The Government, on reconsideration, find that it is urgently needed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there any special reason for the Government to change now?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not in a position to answer that question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Before understanding my question, he has begun to answer it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He has understood your question. You want to know why the Government changed their opinion. He says that he cannot answer that question.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What was the special circumstance that persuaded the Government or the Chief Engineer—whoever it may be—to consider this as a real necessity?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Other Members of Government may probably be able to answer such questions better.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Had the *Satyagraha* at Suchindram anything to do with this matter?

MR. K V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have no information.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the Chief Engineer whether there is not in existence a branch road from the Cape Comorin road to Karkad village, and whether that branch road is not maintained by the Public Works Department?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I know there is a small branch road to Karkad from a corner of the car streets. I am not quite sure whether it is a cart road or not. I am also not quite sure whether that branch road is being maintained by the Public Works Department.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government please take it from me that it is a road maintained really by the Public Works Department?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That may be.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the Chief Engineer does not know anything about this road?

MR. K. V NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not expected to remember all minor roads maintained by the Public Works Department.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask the Chief Engineer whether, as an officer of the locality, he had not had occasion to know that the road is maintained by the Public Works Department?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I know there is a small road.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will you please take it from me that it is maintained by the Public Works Department and the Public Works Department alone; and may I know further whether the opening of this road was not objected to on the ground that it is not at all necessary?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There has been a petition from the people stating that they want the road. They have only suggested a deviation. The Executive Engineer and the Tahsildar seem to have consulted all the people and settled the alignment finally adopted.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLI (*Tovala*): Were there not petitions from the people stating that they did not require it?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not know.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I wish to know whether there were petitions to the effect that the people did not require this road as contemplated by the demand?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : He has already answered that question. He told you that the people wanted it, but that they only suggested a deviation, which was not considered necessary.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : So far as I am aware, there has not been a single petition from the people stating that they did not want the road.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the proposed road will be longer than the road through Suchindram ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : It will be about the same length.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Karkad villagers could not make use of the road that passes through Suchindram ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : My information is that they are not allowed to pass through car streets.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the Chief Engineer aware that the carts of the Karkad villagers are allowed to pass through these streets of Suchindram ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : My information is that, when carts pass through these streets, high caste coolies will be driving them.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : We are deviating from the main point, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai. This is not the time for arguing that matter.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether there was any recent requisition from the representatives of the Karkad villagers to the effect that this road was urgently needed ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : I have already stated that the people of Karkad have been asking for that road for a very long time. Their recent petition also reiterates it though suggesting a deviation. That is all that I know.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the villagers were asked to deposit Rs. 43 by way of cost for acquisition of land ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : I have no information.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the Chief Engineer aware that the Sambavar Elevation Committee recommended such a deposit ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : I am not aware. My estimate does not provide for any such deposit from the people.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Will the member be pleased to enlighten the House as to whether this road has been proposed at the instance of the people or at the instance of the Government?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : The people have been praying for a long time and, as a result of that, the Government have asked for the estimate.

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MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Am I to understand from the Chief Engineer that the people did really want this road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Exactly, that is what I have been saying and that is my information.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatunad*): ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള റോഡുകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കാത്ത ഏതുപ്രയോജനമാണ് പുതിയ റോഡുകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കാമെന്ന് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The new road will be a *pucca* public road open to all communities.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the Chief Engineer whether the road that passes through Suchindram to Karkad is a public road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not able to pronounce any opinion. A portion of that road is a car street.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the car street is not, in the opinion of the Chief Engineer, a public road?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Why do you ask for his opinion?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): My information is that people of all communities are not allowed to pass through these car streets.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the particular urgency for this road being constructed just now?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is for remedying a long-standing grievance.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Could not the Government wait till the Budget Session?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The people have been asking for this road for the last so many years.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he is aware that there are several other Sambavar villages which are more urgently in need of approach roads?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The other villages too are being provided with approach roads and this road is no less urgent.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, you have subjected him to a very long cross examination and you should allow him to go on with the speech.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have not yet finished even the Karkad business.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I think I can ask a question.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): "As funds for the work are not available in the P. W. D. Budget for 1101, an additional grant of Rs. 4,910 has to be sanctioned for the above purpose and hence the present motion for the supplementary grant.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In regard to item (*a*), may I know whether the Chief Engineer is aware of the policy of the Education Department, that, as far as possible, for improvements of buildings and construction of new buildings, no new provisions are allotted, either for Vernacular Schools or English Schools?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not aware of any such policy. The estimates have been prepared only on the requisition of the Education Department and the works are urgent.

(*d*) The next item is for Rs. 500 for the annual maintenance of the Trivandrum District and Munsiff's Courts buildings and compound walls. As regards this item, I have to say this much. In September 1925, under directions of the High Court, the Registrar wrote to the Government to say that the contractor engaged for the annual maintenance of the District and Munsiff's Court buildings, etc. could not attend to the work properly owing to the want of professional experience and it was likely that the buildings would deteriorate. He therefore suggested that the Public Works Department might be asked to attend to the annual maintenance from 1101, and he promised to surrender the grant of Rs. 500 provided in the budget for the Judicial Department for 1101.

The question having been referred to the Chief Engineer for views he stated that he had no objection to take up the annual maintenance from 1101. The suggestion was accepted by the Government.

As funds are not available in the P. W. D. Budget, to meet the expenditure, a supplementary grant of Rs. 500 has to be sanctioned as additional funds in the P. W. D. Budget for 1101. This grant will not increase the expenditure of the State as there will be a corresponding surrender from the Judicial Budget.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): To what section of the community the majority of the inhabitants of the Karkad village belong?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The majority are said to be Sambavars.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Are they included under the depressed classes?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not know.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether they are at present permitted to use the roads?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I understand that they are not permitted to pass through car streets.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I know what is the sort of maintenance that has to be carried out to the Trivandrum District and Munsiff's Courts buildings and compound wall?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That includes white-washing, thatching, repairs to the walls and roof and other such minor repairs.

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MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): What might be the cost for putting up a new building?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That question does not arise. The present buildings have to be kept up.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is the Chief Engineer aware of any instance when the Department contemplated the opening of a public road which the people did not want?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not aware.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Is the Member aware that a portion of the Karkad village is inhabited by the Kammalas?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have no accurate information on the point.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Do the Kammalas really make use of the existing roads?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): May be.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഈ ഡിമാൻറിൽ (c) പാട്ട് അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ഒളിച്ചു കളിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. സ്വാർത്ഥപരമായ ഏതാനും ആളുകളുടെ ആഗ്രഹങ്ങൾക്കോ അഭിമാനത്തിനോ വഴിപ്പെട്ട പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പണം ഇങ്ങനെ തോന്ന്യാസമായി ചിലവിടാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നത് ഈ സഭയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശശുദ്ധതയ്ക്കും നല്ലമനസ്സിനും യോജിക്കാത്ത ഒരു സംഗതിയായിരിക്കും. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും എന്നെങ്കിലും ഒരു കാലത്തു് അവസാനമായി തീരുമാനിക്കണം. ഒരു റോഡിൽക്കൂടിനടന്നു കൂടാ എന്ന് ഒരുവഗ്ഗക്കാർ ശഠിക്കുമ്പോൾ വേറെ ഒരു റോഡുവെട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതനാവശ്യമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ തുക അനുവദിച്ചുകൂടാ.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I also oppose that part of the demand. The whole thing looks very suspicious. As has been pointed out by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, this is an instance in which the people concerned do not want a road but the Government insist on having a road.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think such a case arises here.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): If we may take the opinion of the two elected Members, it is evident from their cross examination of the Chief Engineer about the Karkad affair.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: They have not yet spoken.

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MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): At least from the trend of their questions, I can gather that there is something suspicious. If we allow ourselves to be guided by the feelings reflected from the questions, I am sure this is a road which the people do not want. But the Government are very particular of thrusting it on them. The whole thing is, as I said, very suspicious and if my report is true, the Government want to evade the larger issue by giving them a new road. There is now a road which is used by one section of the community and not used by another section. This is at the expense of the tax-payer. There have been urgent needs for roads in places where the construction of roads would have facilitated agriculture and trade. In those parts, Government are very unwilling to construct roads but here Government are prepared to coerce the people and grant a road which they do not really require. It will be a standing humiliation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are not quite in order when you say Government coerce the people.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I say all this in a friendly manner, by all sorts of arguments, false and real. There is a road existing and they are not in need of another road. It will be a standing humiliation to the people concerned if a road is constructed for them. Therefore I very strongly protest against this part of the demand.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I oppose the motion. I represent the Agastisvaram taluk. As far as I know, there is already a road that connects the village of Karkad with the Cape road. Even now carts pass through this road and reach the Cape road. Only when it passes a portion of the road, it is driven by Caste-Hindus. Sambavars are not allowed to go through this road. That particular portion is not open not only to the non-caste-Hindus, but to some extent also to Europeans as well. Lately a European and a lady, both missionaries, of the Salvation Army while passing along this road were seriously assaulted by the inhabitants of the locality. It was a sensational case, but somehow or other the villagers have begun to feel that they cannot stop the entry of Europeans, so much so that they are not objecting to their entry at present. But Christians are not allowed even now to pass along this road.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a public road?

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): So far as I know, it is a public road; that is now maintained by the Public Works Department. Even the Commissioner of Police who came there in connection with the *Satyagraha* at Suchindram was not permitted to go along that road. He wanted permission to pass along that road, but the obstructionists said that as there was a minor festival going on in the temple, he could not be permitted to go along that road. If another road is constructed exclusively for the use of the depressed classes, it will certainly be a longer one than this road. By creating such a road, this Council will only be helping in an attempt to perpetuate

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[Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

an inhuman and evil custom. So I appeal to this House never to sanction this demand and I request them to reject the demand and keep the prestige of this House unimpaired.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Before opposing this motion, I shall assure my friends Mr. A. K. Pillai and Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai that an objection petition has been sent from the villagers of Karkad. I assure them that I will try to see that such a petition is even now sent from the individuals of the village of Karkad with their affidavits.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Am I to understand that the people of the Karkad village are against such an approach road?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Certainly. The necessity for this road was brought to the attention of Government at any rate more than 40 years ago. The people of the village have not only been approaching the Government, but they have also been pressing their respective missionary heads for recommendation to the Government for an approach road. The Karkad villagers consist of 3 sections. 40 per cent. are Hindus, 26 per cent. are London Mission Christians and the rest are Salvation Army people. They have been pressing for an approach road for a very long time through their respective representatives by making petitions to Government and also by publishing their needs in the local paper, the Travancore Times, about the dire necessity for such a road, so long as these people were not allowed the use of the road that now exists and which is also actually maintained by the P. W. D. connecting the village road to the Cape road. In the year 1923, on a petition presented by the villagers of Karkad, the Chief Engineer has given an endorsement to the following effect. I shall just read out. This is the endorsement on a petition from Mr. G. Devasahayam and others of Karkad, Suchindram *pakuthi*, Agastisvaram taluk.

"With reference to their petition dated 5-6-98 praying for a road from Karkad village to the Cape road, Devasahayam and others are informed that the road prayed for by them was considered by the Government long ago and they have ordered in their No. 1039 A/P. W. dated 6-3-1911 that the seme was not necessary and that it would be sufficient if the existing road from their village to the Cape road 45th mile *via* Kakumputhur and the Suchindram Tank bund be widened and metalled. In the face of the above G. O. the undersigned is unable to recommend the road prayed for by them now and vetoed by the Government already."

For a correct understanding of this House, I shall give a small plan of the Karkad village. The latter portion of the endorsement refers to a road from the 45th mile, *i. e.*, a mile further west from the Cape road, from the place where the road branches off to Karkad through Suchindram village. A certain portion of it passes through the bank of a tank. The Chief Engineer says in the endorsement on the petition that the required road is not at all necessary and it was considered already in the year 1911. So far back it was found that there was no necessity for the road. That is the endorsement

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given by the Chief Engineer on 6th June 1923. So in order to approach Karkad village as seen from this endorsement, there are two roads, one branching from the main Cape road at the 45th mile and another at any rate at the place where Suchindram is situated. Now the people have been agitating against this because, as notified in the endorsement, these roads were not at all metalled or even maintained in the proper manner as endorsed by the Chief Engineer. The people draw the attention of the Government to the dire necessity of having an approach road to their village. Now it had been usual for the Karkad Sambavars to take their carts through the Suchindram to the Cape road. From the eastern road of Suchindram village, a small road reaches Karkad village covering a distance of about a furlong and a half. Sambavars make use of these roads by taking their carts up to the eastern termination of Suchindram village road and leaving their carts in the hands of caste Hindu drivers to undertake to drive carts to the northern extremity or elsewhere as the case may be on a payment of four cash. Now these people felt the necessity and hence agitated for another road. But the Government refused to grant their prayer. Now in order to test the real right of the Sambavars to the road which has been metalled and maintained by the P. W. D. a campaign was started and was going on for some time. At that time due to some inspiration the Karkad villagers were approached by the P. W. D. people to send in a petition to say that they want to have another road and that they will be satisfied with that road and that they will have nothing to do with *Satyagraha*. It is highly relevant in this connection to say that their version was supported by a major portion of the villagers. These people were approached deliberately and were asked to put in a petition that they want a road and that they have nothing to do with *Satyagraha*. Curiously enough there is the irresistible inference that it was a fact; because just a few days previous to the stopping of *Satyagraha* on an understanding with the authorities, the P. W. D. men were seen going on in all haste pegging and marking out the new road. An estimate was called for, for this purpose and for no other purpose because of the fact that Karkad Sambavars were asked to pay a certain amount by way of compensation to acquire a site. That was done in 1099, *i. e.*, two years back and the matter was pending till now. In 1100, another petition was sent to the Government to the effect that they had already deposited the compensation money and that this road should be taken up. Government have been remaining quite callous to the people's demand. But now, on their own initiative the P. W. D. people are seen pegging and marking the road in all haste. So, what I want to impress upon this Council is that though I am an ardent supporter of their needs and at the same time of the elevation of the depressed classes as seen from my previous questions as also on the general discussion of the Budget, I am against this demand. I wish that I should never be understood that I am not for any approach road at all particularly to the depressed classes. But, to my knowledge, it appears that there are large number of villages inhabited by Sambavars

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

all over Agastisvaram taluk which stand in more urgent need of these approach roads than the Karkad people. At any rate, the Karkad people by a payment of four cash are able to go from one extremity to the other by engaging a caste Hindu driver for taking the cart through the prohibited portion. But the other Sambavars living in other villages are not given the benefit even of having walking way to their villages. So in view of the fact that there are other villages where people are in more urgent need of approach roads than the Karkad people, and inasmuch as this demand has been brought up before this House, I can only say that it leads to this conclusion, namely, that the Government simply want to switch off their attention and thereby their concentration from the *Satyagraha* campaign. It is for this that this subject has been taken advantage of indirectly by the Government. I wish to press upon the House that the issue is not what appears apparently on the face of this demand. The issue is entirely different. If this demand were to be accepted by this House, it will simply amount to this that this House had countenanced the practice of non-admission of depressed classes to roads which are maintained by P. W. D. and which they have every right of using. I wish the members to understand that the issue is not the approach road particularly to the depressed class villagers, but the issue is only the countenancing of the practice that has been obtaining *here*—the practice which is simply inhuman.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Is the Member aware that during the *Satyagraha* campaign that was going on at Suchindram the attitude of the Government was not in favour of the depressed classes passing along this road?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not know how it arises here when you are discussing the necessity for an approach road.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*). I think it is relevant. So I appeal to the Members of this House, at least those on this side of the House, to understand clearly the issue underlying this demand and to see that this demand is not sanctioned.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As there are several others to speak on this subject, we shall now adjourn and meet at 11-30 A. M. tomorrow.

The Council adjourned at 5-10 P. M.

T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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